# STATE OF ILLINOIS ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION

CENTRAL ILLINOIS LIGHT COMPANY	)	
d/b/a AmerenCILCO	)	
CENTRAL ILLINOIS PUBLIC SERVICE	)	
COMPANY	,	
d/b/a AmerenCIPS	)	07-0539
ILLINOIS POWER COMPANY d/b/a AmerenIP	)	
	)	
Approval of the Energy Efficiency and	)	
Demand-Response Plan		

### JOINT RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR REHEARING

The People of the State of Illinois, by and through Attorney General Lisa Madigan, the Citizens Utility Board, the Environment Illinois Research and Education Center, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and the Natural Resources Defense Council (collectively, "Respondents") hereby respond to the Application for Rehearing filed by Staff and Central Illinois Light Company d/b/a AmerenCILCO, Central Illinois Public Service Company d/b/a AmerenCIPS, and Illinois Power Company d/b/a AmerenIP (collectively "Ameren") (with Staff, collectively "Applicants") in the above-captioned docket. Applicants seek rehearing on a section of the Illinois Commerce Commission's ("ICC") final Order ("Order") relating to the "independent evaluation" required by section 5/12-103(f)(7) of the Public Utilities Act (the "Act") (220 ILCS 5/12-103(f)(7). Staff-Ameren Application at 1-2. An independent evaluator must be retained to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of energy-efficiency and demand-response programs required under section 5/12-103 of the Act (220 ILCS 5/12-103).

Respondents take no position on the factual and legal issues raised in Applicants' filing. However, Respondents support Applicants' efforts to eliminate possible delays in the hiring of the independent evaluator. Any such delays could jeopardize implementation of the energy efficiency programs mandated by Section 5/12-103, 220 ILCS 5/12-103.

Respondents and Applicants, in conjunction with the Stakeholder Advisory

Group<sup>2</sup>, have reached consensus on a process that could be used to expedite the hiring of an independent evaluator, should the Commission grant Applicants' request for rehearing. This process ensures Commission control over the independent evaluator – while avoiding delays that could occur if the evaluator were to be retained directly by the Commission. The Stakeholders support a process through which Ameren would:

- (1) develop, with stakeholder input, a Request for Proposals to solicit bids for an independent evaluator;
- (2) file the Request for Proposals as a compliance filing in this docket;
- (3) select, with stakeholder input, a independent evaluator;
- (4) submit, as a compliance filing, a contract between Ameren and an evaluator selected from the firms that responded to the Request for Proposals, provided any such contract expressly provides that the Commission has the right to: (a) approve or reject the contract; (b) to direct the utility to terminate the evaluator if the Commission determines that the evaluator is unable or unwilling to provide an independent evaluation; and (c) approve any action by the utility that would result in termination of the evaluator throughout the term of the contract.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Respondents take no position with respect to the legal arguments raised by the Applicants, but reserve the right to take any position with respect to section 5/12-103(f)(7) in any future proceeding.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Order states that Ameren "should establish a stakeholder process to review the Utility's progress towards achieving the required energy efficiency and demand response goals and to continue strengthening the portfolio." Order, at 24.

The Respondents believe that a process of this type would be consistent with the relief requested in Applicants' rehearing request and would avoid possible delays that could jeopardize effective implementation of Ameren's efficiency plan.

WHEREFORE, Respondents respectfully request that the Commission grant the relief requested in the Staff and Ameren Application for Rehearing.

Respectfully Submitted,
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March 17, 2008

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### **NOTICE OF FILING**

TO: Attached Service List via Email

Please take note that on March 17, 2008, I submitted the attached Joint Response to Application for Rehearing, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois, the Citizens Utility Board, Environment Illinois, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, and the Natural Resources Defense Council for filing in the above-captioned proceeding via e-Docket with the Chief Clerk of the Illinois Commerce Commission at 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, 62701.

March 17, 2008 Dated: Kristin Munsch

> Assistant Attorney General Illinois Attorney General's Office

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Kristin Munsch, hereby certify that the foregoing document, together with this Notice of Filing and Certificate of Service, were sent to all parties of record listed on the attached service list by e-mail on March 17, 2008. Paper copies will be provided upon request.

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